UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Summary

Market prices of potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and nearly all of the truck crops declined further during the past month under the increasing pressure of marketings from nearby producing areas and the competition of home-grown supplies, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today.

A great many of the price declines were of a seasonal nature. Because of the unusually large production of many of the late-summer and fall vegetables, however, prices generally are somewhat below those of last year. But there are a few exceptions, such as the prices of snap beans, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, onions, peppers, and watermelons in the East and cantaloups and spinach in the West, all of which are slightly higher than a year ago. As compared with a month ago, prices of snap beans, cabbage, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, spinach, and watermelons in the East and snap beans, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onions and turnips in the West are all somewhat higher.

Crop prospects in most of the intermediate and late States continued generally fair to good during July and the first part of August. Since the planted acreages of nearly all these crops were increased slightly this year, production is indicated to be generally larger than in 1936. The prospect for late potatoes and sweetpotatoes as of August 1 changed but little from that of a month earlier, when larger crops than a year ago or than the average were indicated. As compared with 1936, production of late snap beans is up 72

percent, late domestic cabbage 42 percent, late cantaloups 6 percent, late cucumbers 24 percent, intermediate peppers 16 percent, late tomatoes 23 percent, and late watermelons up 20 percent. On the other hand, late eggplant is indicated to be about 24 percent below the 1936 crop, and late onions are down about 12 percent.

The generally larger supplies of vegetables indicate that market prices in general during the balance of the present marketing season will continue somewhat below those of last year. There may be some slight seasonal advances from the present levels, however, after the local and home-grown supplies are exhausted.

Because of expanded plantings and favorable growing conditions, record large crops of most canning vegetables are being harvested this season. The prospect, therefore, is for large packs and plentiful supplies of most of the canned vegetables for the coming fall, winter, and spring months.

This issue includes a special article, "Some Recent Trends in the Vegetable Industry".

POTATOES

Prices near low point

Market prices of potatoes declined slightly during the past month and have about reached the low point for the season, particularly in eastern centers. As soon as the local and home-grown supplies are exhausted, however, market prices may be expected to advance slightly. A further adjustment between eastern and mid-western city prices appears likely, also, in that the prices in the East are now lower than those in the West, in contrast to the usual relationship. During the period October to May, prices in the East usually are above those in the West. In years of relatively large late crops, similar to the present one, potato prices usually hold to a fairly stable level from October to the end of the marketing season.

Slight change in production prospects

The indications of production of potatoes for the country as a whole showed little change during July, the crop as of August 1 being only about 1,700,000 bushels smaller than indicated a month earlier. Most of the reduction occurred in the commercial area of Virginia, one of the intermediate States that has already completed its marketings. In the other major areas, there were shifts in the production indications among the different States, but the group totals remained practically unchanged from the July report.

The distribution of the late crop this season indicates that there probably will be 116,000,000 bushels in the 8 eastern States, against 107,000,000 last year; about 121,000,000 bushels in the 10 central States, compared with only 91,000,000 in 1936, and 92,000,000 bushels in the 12 western States, compared with about 80,000,000 bushels last year.

In the 7 intermediate States, most of the commercial crop of which has already been marketed, production is now indicated to be 36,631,000 bushels, as compared with 26,187,000 harvested last year and with 39,212,000 bushels, the 1928-32 average crop. The late or non-commercial crop in these States is indicated to be nearly three-fourths larger than the short crop of last year and slightly above average.

Shipments increasing from late States

Carlot shipments of potatoes during the last month have been largely from New Jersey, although the movement from a few of the late States is getting started. Total shipments in recent weeks have been at a very low level, however, since a large volume of nearby potatoes has been shipped by truck. Carlot shipments for the week ended August 14 totaled only about 2,000 cars, of which 760 were from New Jersey. This probably marks the low point of the season for the weekly carlot movement. Shipments from the late States are expected to increase sharply during the next 2 months, reaching a peak in October. Movement for the week ended August 21 increased to approximately 2,500 cars.

Potatoes: Shipping point and terminal market prices per 100-pound sack, specified weeks, 1936 and 1937

Location	Week ended					
	1936	1937				
	Aug. 15	July 17	July 24	July 31	Aug. 7	Aug. 14
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.O.B. shipping point:						
New Jersey	1.98	-	-	1.00	.84	.88
Md. and Va., E. Shore	-	1.01	1.00	1.00	-	-
Kansas and Missouri	-	.83	.89	-	-	-
Terminal market:						
Cobblers -						
New York, l.c.l.	2.00	1.13	.98	.91	.90	.87
Chicago, carlot	2.44	1.23	1.36	1.28	1.16	1.21
Idaho Bliss Triumphs -						
Chicago, carlot	2.85	1.82	1.75	1.62	1.51	1.59

Potatoes: Acreage and production, average 1928-32, annual 1934-37

Item	Average 1928-32	1934	1935	1936	Indicated 1937
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Acreage:					
Early:					
Total	390.0	431.0	417.0	390.0	426.0
Commercial	156.4	156.0	132.4	134.6	179.4
Other	233.6	275.0	284.6	255.4	246.6
Intermediate:					
Total	340.0	333.0	322.0	302.0	320.0
Commercial	143.4	141.2	121.2	118.0	126.5
Other	196.6	191.8	200.8	184.0	184.5
18 Surplus Late States:					
Total	2,196.0	2,355.0	2,305.0	1,967.0	2,065.4
3 Eastern	620.0	666.0	637.0	579.0	611.0
5 Central	1,055.0	1,156.0	1,136.0	907.0	930.0
10 Western	521.0	533.0	532.0	481.1	524.4
12 Other Late States:					
Total	401.0	478.0	497.0	399.1	398.5
30 Late States Combined	2,597.0	2,802.0	2,802.0	2,366.2	2,463.9
37 Late and Intermediate States	2,937.0	3,166.0	3,124.0	2,668.2	2,783.9
U. S. Total	3,327.0	3,597.0	3,541.0	3,058.2	3,223.9
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Production:	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
Early:					
Total	32,717	36,651	33,799	26,100	36,914
Commercial	16,788	19,274	14,035	13,377	20,188
Other	15,929	17,377	19,764	12,723	16,726
Intermediate:					
Total	39,212	32,279	34,940	26,187	36,631
Commercial	22,540	20,035	18,411	16,518	19,584
Other	16,672	12,244	16,529	9,665	17,047
18 Surplus Late States:					
Total	260,473	291,811	271,020	240,254	288,770
3 Eastern	96,673	126,641	91,766	96,668	106,030
5 Central	90,081	96,017	96,783	64,670	91,408
10 Western	73,719	69,153	82,471	78,916	91,332
12 Other Late States:					
Total	39,713	45,364	46,621	37,456	40,222
30 Late States combined	300,186	337,175	317,641	277,710	328,992
37 Late and Intermediate States	339,398	369,454	352,581	303,897	365,623
U. S. Total	372,115	406,105	386,380	329,997	402,537

SWEETPOTATOES

Seasonal price decline

Market prices of sweetpotatoes declined sharply during the second week of August, but the declines were no more than seasonal. The usual trend of sweetpotato prices is sharply downward from the beginning of the season in mid-July to a season low point in October. After October, prices usually rise sharply to the end of the season in the late spring months. Wholesale prices this season at New York City declined from about $1.75 per bushel in mid-July to $1.23 in mid-August; whereas at Chicago the decline was from $2.00 to $1.64 per bushel. In both markets, prices in mid-August were somewhat below those of a year earlier.

Car-lot shipments of sweetpotatoes this season through August 21 totaled only about 800 cars, compared with 975 to the same time last year. In recent weeks, Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee and Louisiana have been the chief sources of supply.

Larger harvests expected in all areas

Production of sweetpotatoes for 1937, as of August 1, is indicated to be approximately 74,000,000 bushels, or slightly more than was indicated a month earlier, about 15 percent more than last year's crop, and nearly 12 percent above the 1928-32 average production. The harvest this year is expected to be larger in all of the major producing areas, chiefly because of higher yields per acre.

Sweetpotatoes: Acreage harvested and production, average 1928-32, annual 1934-37

Groups of States	Average 1928-32	1934	1935	1936	Indicated 1937
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Acreage harvested:					
4 Central Atlantic 1/...	66	66	70	68	69
4 Lower Atlantic 2/	256	311	315	262	264
8 South Central 3/	414	538	538	451	450
6 Other States 4/	38	43	46	41	43
Total	771	958	969	822	826
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Production:					
4 Central Atlantic 1/...	8,205	7,850	8,481	8,876	9,555
4 Lower Atlantic 2/.....	20,676	25,420	27,698	20,270	22,988
8 South Central 3/.....	33,793	41,093	43,037	31,779	37,191
6 Other States 4/.....	3,694	3,119	3,912	3,219	4,255
Total	66,368	77,482	83,128	64,144	73,989

1/ New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.
2/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.
3/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. 4/ Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and California.

SNAP BEANS: Record late crop. The first group of late shipping States which supplies most of the snap beans during September has a record-breaking crop of nearly 1,500,000 bushels, or 72 percent more than last season and 228 percent more than their recent 5-year average production. Most of the movement from these States is by motor truck. Market prices of snap beans usually are quite moderate in the late summer period, and the abundant supplies available doubtless will cause greater than seasonal declines during the next few weeks. Declines of 20 cents to 50 cents per bushel already have occurred since the relatively high level reached in early August.

CABBAGE: Supplies abundant. Although there have been, in some seasons, larger crops of late domestic-type cabbage, and although growing conditions in some areas have been rather unfavorable, a relatively large production of 358,000 tons of domestic cabbage is indicated for the 10 late States. Last year's crop of about 253,000 tons was one of the smallest on record. This year's prospective production is 22 percent above the average for this group. New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Colorado expect exceptionally large crops. For the first time Pennsylvania's production of domestic-type cabbage has almost reached the proportions of the Wisconsin crop, making Pennsylvania the third largest State. New York leads (as usual) with an indicated production of 93,500 tons this year, while Wisconsin and Pennsylvania both expect close to 66,000 tons. Most of the car-lot supply during the fall months usually comes from New York and Wisconsin.

Prices of summer cabbage recently registered a temporary advance but the price level in both New York City and Chicago is scarcely one third that of mid-August last year, when market supplies of cabbage were short. The usual seasonal declines can be expected as harvesting of the late crop becomes active.

CANTALOUPS: Prices advancing. Late cantaloups and other muskmelons are not turning out as well as expected, particularly in Colorado. Hail damage and water shortage caused the loss of considerable acreage in that State, so that the Colorado crop is now indicated to be only 1 million crates, or one-third less than average. Michigan, New Jersey, and Oregon, however, expect relatively large crops this year, and quality is reported good. Total indicated production of 2,540,000 crates in nine late States is only slightly more than last year's output, and somewhat less than the 5-year average production.

Prices of cantaloups have advanced considerably from the low point reached in late July, and the trend probably will continue upward as the season approaches its end in early October. Honey Dew melons and Casabas, of course, are available continuously through November, but in much smaller quantities. Recent rail shipments of cantaloups have been only half as numerous as those of a year ago, but the movement of Honey Dews is running far ahead of last summer's record.

CELERY: Growing conditions favorable. The celery crop in the first group of late States (chiefly New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Colorado) had an exceptionally good start, and growing conditions generally have been very favorable. August 1 condition averaged 87 percent of normal, or 26 points higher than a year ago and 4 points above average. With acreage increased about 15 percent over that harvested last season, the prospects are for a large production of celery for the September and October markets. Last year this group of States had a relatively small crop of 2,600,000 crates. Plantings of celery in the Delta district of California are reported to be somewhat below those of last year. This relatively large crop begins to move to market in mid-October. Prices in wholesale markets recently showed a temporary advance, but the usual trend in late summer is downward.

EGGPLANT: Supplies plentiful. One of the largest crops of eggplant on record was produced this year, totaling 841,000 bushels in the four States growing this vegetable on a commercial scale. Yields per acre averaged smaller than usual, but plantings were increased sharply over those of last season to a total of 3,800 acres. New Jersey, the leading source of the summer supply, has a crop of 306,000 bushels this year, produced on 1,300 acres.

ONIONS: Late crop smaller this year. Onion growers and dealers face better market conditions this fall and winter than they had last year, when the late-crop production reached record proportions. The revised estimate of late onions for the 1936 season is 11,734,000 sacks of 100 pounds each. Unfavorable growing conditions in some Northern States have resulted in considerable abandonment of acreage, and yields are now expected to be below average in the eastern and north central areas, though still above average in the Western States. Production this year, based on August 1 condition, is indicated to be 10,310,000 sacks, or 12 percent less than the 1936 late onion crop but 7 percent greater than the 1928-32 average. The three Eastern States now expect 16 percent fewer onions than last year; the seven Central States about 26 percent fewer, but the seven Western States 13 percent more onions than in 1936.

The delayed opening of the season in New York and Michigan, particularly, has caused recent car-lot shipments to be much fewer than those of mid-August 1936, and the fall market supplies in general are expected to be less plentiful than last year. If plantings of early onions in Texas are kept down to a moderate level, the chances are for a good winter outlet for late northern onions. Recent prices continued firm in New York City. The Chicago wholesale market had declined on mid-western onions, although California yellows advanced.

GREEN PEPPERS: Intermediate production increased. Both of the intermediate States, North Carolina and New Jersey, have larger crops of green peppers than last season. The indicated 2,064,000 bushels in these States together exceeds all previous records. Weather conditions in

New Jersey have been ideal for peppers, and that State alone expects nearly 1,800,000 bushels, or 16 percent more than last year. Prices have been moderate, recently averaging only 55 cents per bushel in New York City and 90 cents in Chicago.

TOMATOES: Record autumn crop expected. Unusually favorable growing conditions for tomatoes in most of the late States are resulting in a record-breaking crop for market and for manufacture. The acreage for fresh market shipment was increased slightly this year in the 14 late States, and with above average yields the production for market is now forecast at 6,208,000 bushels. A harvest of this size would be 23 percent larger than in 1936 and 42 percent larger than the 5-year average crop. Late tomato plantings in southern and central California are reduced 16 percent from last season's harvested acreage, and they now total only 6,000 acres. This represents a sharp reduction from the 1928-32 average of 9,560 acres in this area, and probably is the result of reports of the large earlier acreage this season. The 1937 crop of late tomatoes for market appears to be exceptionally large in New York State, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Colorado, and Oregon. About 1,500,000 bushels are expected in New York alone, compared with an average crop of 674,000 bushels.

The car-lot movement of tomatoes recently has been very light. Nearly all of the August and September shipments are by motor truck from nearby producing sections. Lug boxes in New York City recently averaged only 58 cents, wholesale, or 40 cents less than the price a month earlier and 6 cents below last summer's corresponding price. Chicago dealers were getting around 42 cents per lug of mid-western tomatoes and $1.70 for western stock. These quotations were considerably below those of a year ago. The prospects are for further declines during the next few weeks, at least in eastern markets where supplies probably will be very liberal.

WATERMELONS: Fall supplies large. Only twice before, in 1930 and 1931, has there been a bigger production of watermelons than this season. The total commercial crop for 1937 is now estimated at 75,400,000 melons, compared with about 63 million last year. The 14 late States expect a record crop of nearly 25 million melons, or 48 percent more than their 5-year average and one-fifth more than last year. Both acreage and yields were greatly increased this season. Central and northern California report a large crop of nearly 7,400,000 melons and Missouri has about 3,600,000. Shipments of watermelons, however, decrease sharply during September and only a few carloads are available in October. Wholesale prices recently advanced sharply in New York but they declined in Chicago, as Missouri shipments were at their peak. The Georgia season was closing with a relatively high total of 11,000 cars shipped.

Truck crops: Commercial acreage and production for market, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937

Commodity and group	Acreage				Production		
	Average: 1928-32	1936	Prelim.: 1937	Unit	Average 1928-32	1936	Indicated 1937
	Acres	Acres	Acres				
Asparagus 1/ Early	74,550	79,900	78,760	1,000	7,249	7,925	7,097
Late	24,530	27,360	28,810	crates	2,011	3,043	2,868
Total	99,080	107,260	107,570	"	9,260	10,968	9,965
Beans, lima, Early	2,540	2,700	2,600	1,000	151	123	161
Intermediate (1)	1,000	1,400	1,800	bush.	55	70	90
Intermediate (2)	4,880	4,600	5,100	"	337	460	458
Total 3 groups	8,420	8,700	9,500	"	543	653	709
Beans, snap, Fall	12,000	14,900	21,100	"	1,013	1,295	1,986
Early (1)	9,660	30,000	30,000	"	936	1,800	1,860
Early (2)	27,460	31,500	25,200	"	2/ 2,261	2,773	2,373
Second-early	20,150	23,670	26,400	"	2/ 1,395	1,309	1,204
Intermediate (1)	11,660	20,700	23,900	"	2/ 1,073	900	1,171
Intermediate (2)	11,400	13,050	13,160	"	1,138	1,245	1,251
Late (1)	3,050	9,500	10,930	"	455	867	1,490
Total 7 groups	95,380	143,320	150,690	"	2/ 8,271	10,189	11,335
Beets, Early	4,710	7,400	5,600	"	2/ 830	2/ 1,036	868
Second-early	2,390	1,450	1,350	"	264	192	213
Intermediate	2,260	2,330	2,400	"	555	2/ 601	664
Total 3 groups	9,360	11,180	9,350	"	2/ 1,649	2/ 1,829	1,745
Cabbage, Fall	810	1,920	2,800	Tons	5,900	9,500	19,500
Early	37,560	57,100	56,200	"	2/ 211,000	2/307,300	269,900
Second-early	13,810	18,300	18,600	"	2/ 80,700	2/ 92,100	97,500
Intermediate	25,220	32,510	34,470	"	157,700	160,400	227,200
Late, domestic	36,560	38,690	42,520	"	2/ 292,600	252,900	358,200
Late, Danish	35,190	35,340	37,190	"	2/ 279,000	266,900	
Total	149,150	183,860	191,780	"	2/1,026,900	2/1,089,100	
Cantaloups, Early	44,530	24,350	30,190	1,000	2/ 6,614	3,755	4,349
Second-early	40,640	44,210	42,050	crates	2/ 5,562	2/ 4,720	4,451
Intermediate	18,960	23,600	24,000	"	2/ 1,892	2,302	2,831
Late	18,790	20,050	19,120	"	2,606	2,401	2,540
Total	123,920	112,210	115,360	"	2/ 16,674	2/13,178	14,171
Carrots 3/, Fall	3,280	7,100	10,400	1,000	1,831	3,337	4,576
Early	8,470	11,000	8,800	bush.	2/ 1,840	2/ 1,877	1,533
Second-early	8,550	12,300	10,060	"	2/ 3,432	2/ 5,770	4,070
Intermediate	1,880	1,350	1,340	"	2/ 488	363	390
Total 4 groups	22,180	31,750	30,600	"	2/ 7,591	2/ 11,347	10,569
Cauliflower				1,000			
Fall and winter	7,990	8,800	8,350	crates	2,261	1,952	2,481
Early	8,630	8,650	9,000	"	2,235	2,491	2,745
Late (1)	7,290	7,370	7,150	"	2/ 1,573	1,600	1,665
Total 3 groups	23,910	24,820	24,500	"	2/ 6,069	6,043	6,891
Celery				1,000			
Fall and winter	7,180	9,050	10,300	crates	1,240	1,538	1,700
Early	7,620	8,900	10,200	"	2,533	2,538	3,153
Second-early	1,000	1,900	1,750	"	2/ 590	969	854
Intermediate	3,710	4,090	4,390	"	1,014	1,114	1,106
Late (1)	11,650	10,400	12,000	"	2/ 3,348	2,594	
Total 5 groups	31,160	34,340	38,640	"	2/ 8,725	8,753	

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Truck crops: Commercial acreage and production for market, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937 - continued

Commodity and group	Acreage			Unit	Production		
	Average 1928-32	1936	Prelim. 1937		Average 1928-32	1936	Indicated 1937
	Acres	Acres	Acres				
Cucumbers, Fall	1,390	1,600	1,600	1,000	104	160	64
Early (1)	14,630	12,600	11,300	bush.	2/ 1,128	776	598
Early (2)	12,290	12,330	10,900	"	2/ 1,289	1,039	883
Second-early	7,780	5,700	6,200	"	2/ 783	331	491
Intermediate	7,710	8,320	9,150	"	984	1,061	1,282
Late (1)	1,890	2,860	2,790	"	220	268	331
Total 6 groups	45,690	43,410	41,940	"	2/ 4,503	3,635	3,649
Eggplant, Fall	1,170	980	1,350	"	210	133	245
Early (Fla.)	910	600	500	"	256	240	200
Second-early, La.	360	350	650	"	55	35	90
Late (N.J.)	1,020	1,250	1,300	"	251	412	306
Total	3,460	3,180	3,800	"	772	820	841
Lettuce, Early	49,740	36,010	35,300	1,000	5,821	2/ 4,798	5,035
Second-early	46,640	61,980	50,000	crates	4,855	2/ 7,427	6,112
Intermediate	4,230	5,300	5,450	"	2/ 851	997	726
Late (1)	25,210	25,750	30,350	"	2/ 3,625	3,737	4,360
Total 4 groups	125,820	129,040	121,100	"	2/ 15,152	2/ 16,959	16,233
Onions, Early	23,060	34,970	24,050	1,000	2/ 2,308	2/ 3,302	2,085
Intermediate	8,330	20,200	16,700	sacks	2/ 1,337	2,191	2,469
Late	53,040	53,900	52,920	"	2/ 9,609	11,734	10,310
Total	84,430	109,070	93,670	"	2/ 13,254	2/ 17,227	14,864
Peas, green, Early	6,470	16,400	16,200	1,000	438	1,300	929
Second-early	29,770	57,000	45,540	bush.	2,177	2,944	2,522
Intermediate (1)	6,320	6,000	6,500	"	462	278	455
Intermediate (2)	4,340	3,270	4,020	"	282	191	345
Late (1)	18,040	25,700	28,640	"	2/ 1,694	2,766	3,123
Total 5 groups	64,940	108,370	100,900	"	2/ 5,053	7,479	7,374
Peppers, green							
Fall	2,010	2,400	3,600	"	406	350	640
Early	5,390	5,100	5,200	"	1,380	1,257	1,100
Second-early	1,950	1,300	1,180	"	297	191	268
Intermediate (1)	650	1,000	1,500	"	125	200	270
Intermediate (2)	5,700	6,700	6,900	"	1,378	1,541	1,794
Total 5 groups	15,700	16,500	18,380	"	3,586	3,539	4,072
Spinach, Fall	2,940	2,900	3,000	"	888	754	945
Early	30,860	51,450	53,700	"	2/ 7,599	7,596	8,562
Second-early	8,900	11,490	8,960	"	2,705	2,404	2,524
Intermediate	470	1,260	1,320	"	2/ 77	145	152
Total 4 groups	43,170	67,100	66,980	"	2/ 11,269	10,899	12,183
Tomatoes, Fall	4,010	7,300	10,700	"	256	584	481
Early (1)	10,990	11,000	17,200	"	1,218	990	1,342
Early (2)	27,880	35,200	27,800	"	2,064	2,636	2,234
Second-early	34,880	44,150	48,700	"	3,540	3,436	3,243
Intermediate	36,910	48,030	52,150	"	2/ 4,938	6,821	7,195
Late (1)	30,310	35,050	36,700	"	4,387	5,049	6,208
Late (2)	9,560	7,150	6,000	"	860	930	
Total	154,540	187,880	199,250	"	2/ 17,263	20,446	

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Truck crops: Commercial acreage and production for market, average 1928-32, annual 1936 and 1937 - continued

Commodity and group	Acreage: Average 1928-32	Acreage: 1936	Acreage: Prelim. 1937	Unit	Production: Average 1928-32	Production: 1936	Production: Indicated 1937
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000:			
Watermelons, Early	41,460	23,500	27,000	melons	2/ 15,202	8,942	9,960
Second-early	151,230	169,200	175,500	"	2/ 39,858	2/ 33,826	40,694
Late	45,310	63,900	67,490	"	2/ 16,714	20,571	24,755
Total	238,000	256,600	269,990	"	2/ 71,774	2/ 63,339	75,409

Total to date 1337,310
1578,590
1594,000

1/ Includes asparagus for market and for canning.
2/ Includes some quantities not harvested on account of market conditions.
3/ Includes undetermined quantities used for manufacture in some States.

Truck crops: Wholesale prices at New York, averages for specified weeks, 1936-37

Commodity	Unit	Week ended: 1936 Aug. 15	1937 July 17	1937 July 24	1937 July 31	1937 Aug. 7	1937 Aug. 14
		Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.	Dols.
Beans, lima	Bushel	2.19	2.15	1.40	1.21	1.08	1.35
Beans, snap, green	"	1.12	1.02	.98	1.07	1.33	1.15
Beets	"	.67	.58	.53	.45	.47	.45
Cabbage, domestic	1½ bushel	1.80	.38	.34	.41	.48	.54
Cantaloups, Ariz.	Jumbo 36's	---	3.75	3.04	2.21	2.17	1/ 2.25
Carrots, Calif.	Letc.crate	3.77	4.65	4.42	4.27	3.54	3.10
Carrots, Eastern	Bushel	1.11	1.33	1.27	.91	.79	.80
Cauliflower, western	Pony crate	---	2.11	1.87	2.04	1.89	1/ 1.38
Cauliflower, eastern	Crate	1.26	2.31	2.46	2.40	1.96	1.30
Celery	2/3 crate	1.35	1.79	1.45	1.25	1.25	1.45
Corn, sweet	Bushel	.55	.79	.88	.75	.53	.52
Cucumbers	"	1.27	.67	.99	.90	.80	.85
Eggplant	"	.51	1.75	1.38	1.03	.90	.60
Lettuce, Iceberg	4-5 dz.crate	4.44	3.08	3.15	3.23	3.62	3.75
Onions, yellow	50-lb.sack	.78	.94	.68	.72	.84	.82
Peas, green, western	Bushel	1.97	1.82	2.07	1.99	2.26	1.85
Peppers, green	"	.53	.98	.72	.52	.50	.55
Spinach	"	1.07	.51	.69	.78	.69	.58
Sweetpotatoes	"	1.64	1.75	1.80	1.88	1.79	1.23
Tomatoes	Lug box	.64	.97	.67	.83	.56	.58
Turnips, white	Bushel	1.02	.62	.62	.62	.62	.62
Watermelons, Tom Watson, large	Carload	306.67	267.00	241.88	234.38	365.00	425.00

1/ Average for one day.

Truck crops: Wholesale prices at Chicago, averages for specified weeks, 1936-37

Commodity	Unit	Week ended 1936 Aug. 15	1937 July 17	1937 July 24	1937 July 31	1937 Aug. 7	1937 Aug. 14
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beans, lima	Bushel	4.12	3.33	2.53	2.42	1.78	---
Beans, snap, green	"	1.41	.98	1.64	1.47	1.96	1.40
Beets	"	---	.50	.59	.58	.42	.32
"	Bunch	.014	.010	.011	.011	.013	.012
Cabbage, domestic	100 lbs.	3.10	.60	.82	.75	.76	.94
Cantaloups:							
Arizona	Jumbo 36's	---	3.36	2.32	1.62	---	2.38
California	" "	1/ 2.67	3.44	2.74	2.32	2.50	3.18
Carrots	Letc. crate	3.21	3.68	3.38	3.47	2.85	2.47
Cauliflower	Pony crate	1.82	1.64	1.74	1.64	1.76	1.77
Celery	Flat crate	.46	.48	.45	.50	.39	.42
"	1/2 crate	1.32	1.68	1.40	1.28	1.02	1.12
Corn, sweet (yel.)	Sack	2/ .58	.90	.93	.51	.36	.22
Cucumbers	Bushel	1.25	1.16	1.58	1.48	1.15	1.02
Eggplant	"	1.29	1.69	1.65	1.32	1.28	1.08
Lettuce	4-5 dz. crate	3.48	2.72	2.08	2.45	2.95	3.10
Onions:							
Calif. yellows	50-lb. sack	3/ 1.30	1.01	.99	1.11	1.03	1.10
Yellows	" " "	.85	3/ 1.00	.83	.94	.89	.76
Peas, green	Bushel	1.72	1.86	2.04	1.98	1.74	1.50
Peppers, green	"	.96	.96	.88	.97	1.06	.90
Spinach	"	1.07	.57	1.06	.79	.86	.50
" Colorado	25-lb. crate	.97	----	1.35	1.19	1.12	1.04
Sweetpotatoes	Bushel	1.72	2.00	1.54	1.65	1.90	1.64
Tomatoes	Lug box	1.97	1.46	.96	.78	1.00	.42
" Western	" "	1.82	2.19	.95	1.50	1.70	---
Turnips	Bushel	---	.82	.71	.82	1.12	1.12
"	Bunch	.030	.020	.022	.021	.018	.027
Watermelons, med.	Melon	.26	.24	.24	.24	.29	.23

1/ Standard 45's. 2/ Fair to ordinary. 3/ One quotation.

TRUCK CROPS FOR MANUFACTURE

With generally increased plantings of truck crops (except tomatoes) for canning and manufacture, and with exceptionally favorable growing conditions in most States for all truck crops, record-breaking production is now forecast for the leading commodities - snap beans, sweet corn, green peas and tomatoes. The following table shows the all-time records which are resulting this season, and it is expected that the canned pack of these products will show corresponding increases over the pack of recent years.

Important truck crops for manufacture: Fresh production, average 1928-32 and annual 1935-37

Commodity	Average 1928-32	1935	1936	Indicated 1937
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Beans, snap	73,100	81,500	76,500	102,600
Corn, sweet	628,000	859,900	606,700	1,087,900
Peas, green	182,070	268,100	187,420	277,520
Tomatoes	1,293,200	1,700,200	1,987,500	2,001,700
Total 4 crops	2,176,370	2,909,700	2,858,120	3,469,720

SOME RECENT TRENDS IN THE VEGETABLE INDUSTRY

The vegetable industry constitutes one of the major agricultural enterprises in the United States. Although only from 2 to 3 percent of the total land in crops is devoted to vegetable production, the gross farm income derived from the industry as a whole approximates 3/4 of a billion dollars annually. On the average (1933-35) the gross income from vegetables, including potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry beans, truck crops and farm gardens, represents 23 percent of the total gross income derived from all crops and slightly more than 10 percent of the total income derived from crops and livestock combined.

The importance of the vegetable industry in relation to other major groups of crop and livestock production is indicated by a comparison of the gross income with that derived from each of these groups. This comparison shows that the gross income from vegetable production for the country as a whole usually exceeds that of all other major groups of farm crops. It exceeds that from cotton and cottonseed by nearly 4 percent; grains, 15 percent; fruits and nuts, 58 percent; tobacco 238 percent, sugar crops 900 percent, and all other crops combined, by 105 percent. It also slightly exceeds the gross income derived from each of the major classes of livestock except dairy products, the percentage excess over that derived from cattle and calves being 3 percent; hogs, 2 percent; sheep and wool, 308 percent, and poultry and eggs, 5 percent. The gross income derived from vegetable production is usually about 51 percent smaller than that from dairy products.

In general the vegetable industry may be said to be concentrated in certain well-defined areas of the United States, although each State produces some quantities. The proportion of the gross income from all crops that is usually received from vegetable production varies from a low of 8 percent in Kansas to a high of 77 percent in Maine. On a regional basis the proportion is relatively high in the Northeastern States (New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania). Almost one-half the total gross income from crops and slightly more than 1/6 of that from both crops and livestock in this area is usually from vegetable production. In the 11 far Western States the gross income from vegetables is about 27 percent of the total gross income from crops and 15 percent of the total from crops and livestock combined. The other groups, ranked on the basis of the proportion of total gross income from crops that is derived from vegetables, with the proportion from crops and livestock in parenthesis, are as follows: East North Central States, 26 percent (8 percent); South Atlantic, 21 percent (14 percent); West North Central, 16 percent (4 percent), and South Central, 15 percent (9 percent).

The major vegetable crops may be separated into well-defined groups, the most common grouping being shown in the following table. To indicate the relative importance of these various groups, the average income from each also is shown.

Gross income from farm production of vegetables, 1933-35 average

Group	1933-35 average	Percentage of total
	Dollars	Percent
Truck crops	264,959,000	36.6
Potatoes	187,564,000	26.0
Farm gardens	184,022,000	25.4
Sweetpotatoes	46,740,000	6.5
Dry edible beans	31,854,000	4.4
Hops	8,044,000	1.1
Total	723,183,000	100.0

Truck crops are usually further separated into 3 sub-groups, namely: Truck crops for market, truck crops for canning or manufacture, and market garden crops. Of the income returned to producers of these 3 groups, truck crops for market account for 60 percent of the total, market gardens about 24 percent, and truck crops for canning or manufacture 16 percent.

There has been a marked increase in the acreage devoted to vegetables during the last decade, with a record high total of approximately 10,000,000 acres available for harvest in 1935. This relatively large acreage was about 2,000,000 acres more than was harvested 10 years earlier. Because of the drought and low prices, the acreage in 1936 was reduced by about 8 percent from the 1935 peak. In 1937 the prospect is for some expansion over 1936, which may carry the total to a new high level.

Official data available show that the acreage devoted to vegetables increased from 7,245,000 in 1925 to about 9,294,000 acres in 1935, or at the average rate of about 200,000 acres per year. No definite information is available concerning the acreage of market garden vegetables, which accounted for perhaps 500,000 acres additional in 1935 and in which there probably was a 250,000 acre increase during the last decade.

The acreage of potatoes, the leading single crop in the vegetable group, has varied widely from year to year, with the general level increasing slightly during the decade. The general level for the past 10 years, however, was much below that maintained in the decade previous to 1925, during which time potato-plantings were stimulated by war demand. In 1936 there was a sharp reduction in the potato acreage harvested, because of smaller plantings and because of the abandonment occasioned by drought. This year the planted acreage is indicated to be about 5.4 percent larger than the relatively small acreage harvested in 1936. Reports on August 1 condition indicate a yield per acre of 124.9 bushels, which, if realized, will be the highest on record. The planted acreage and the indicated yield would indicate a total United States potato crop of 402,537,000 bushels, compared with the relatively small crop of 329,997,000 bushels produced in 1936 and with 372,115,000 bushels, the 1928-32 average crop.

In the case of sweetpotatoes, the acreage was increased sharply during the early 1930's, rising from 636,000 acres in 1928 to 1,056,000 acres in 1932. The acreage has since been reduced somewhat to around 826,000 acres in 1937. The total sweetpotato acreage usually varies with the welfare of the southern cotton producers. If cotton prices are relatively high, there is not much incentive for producers to grow sweetpotatoes. On the other hand, if cotton production becomes unprofitable and there is necessity for a live-at-home program, the sweetpotato acreage is usually increased. In some areas, however, such as the central Atlantic Coast States, Kentucky, Tennessee, and a few North Central States, a considerable acreage is grown for the commercial market. The August 1 condition reports indicate an average yield per acre of 89.6 bushels, which would indicate a total production of 73,989,000 bushels this year. This would be greater than last year's crop of 64,144,000 bushels and the average of 66,368,000 bushels.

The harvested acreage of dry edible beans more than doubled in the 10 years ending in 1930, rising from 861,000 acres in 1921 to 2,159,000 acres in 1930. By 1932 it had declined to 1,431,000 acres and has varied between that figure and 1,885,000 acres during the past 5 years. In 1937 the planted acreage is estimated to be 1,794,000 acres, or about 15 percent more than was harvested in 1936. On the basis of August 1 condition reports, yields this season are indicated to be 752 pounds per acre, or slightly higher than last year, so that a crop of 13,483,000 bags of 100 pounds is in prospect. This compares with a crop of 11,122,000 bags in 1936 and an average crop of 12,181,000 bags.

The acreage of truck crops for market and for canning increased by 50 percent during the 10 years ending 1935, when a record high total of 3,060,000 acres was harvested. Most of the increase occurred in the acreage of truck crops for market, since that for canning increased by only about 250,000 acres, or from 1,204,000 in 1925 to 1,457,000 acres in 1935. The acreage of canning vegetables tends to follow a 5-year cycle - 3 years of expansion in acreage, during which supplies are built up to a point where they exceed market requirements, are succeeded by 2 years of rather pronounced decreases in acreage. The cycle shows peak acreages in 1925, 1930, and 1935, and low points in 1927 and 1932. There was considerable abandonment of canning vegetable acreage in 1936, because of drought, but for 1937 it appears that a new high record of approximately 1,580,000 acres were planted.

The acreage of truck crops for market increased steadily from 966,000 acres in 1925 to 1,604,000 in 1935. It was increased again in 1936 to a new high total of 1,661,000 acres, and the prospect is for a further slight expansion in 1937. Although the trend of acreage of all these vegetables combined was steadily upward during the last decade, there were sharp annual fluctuations in the acreage of the individual crops. In a given year, some crops were expanded sharply, while others were decreased, depending upon what the growers thought would be the most profitable to produce in that season. Also some crops were expanded faster than others, as the demand for them increased at a faster rate.

The production of vegetables for market has followed much the same trend as acreage, except that the upward swing has not been quite so great since yields per acre have declined about 15 percent during the last decade. A record volume of these crops combined was produced in 1936, and the prospect is for a further increase in 1937. In the case of canning crops, production has also followed the trend of acreage, reaching the cyclical peaks in 1925, 1930, and 1935. There was a decrease of about 2 percent in 1936, but this year, if normal yields are obtained, a new record high production is in prospect.

The general level of vegetable prices received by producers has declined sharply during the last decade. Though prices have fluctuated widely from year to year, or inversely with production, and though sharp declines were occasioned by the loss of consumer buying power during the depression years and some recovery took place in the more-recent period, the long-time trend of prices has been downward. This is true of prices of potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and the truck crops. During 1936, potato and sweetpotato prices recovered sharply because of reduced production and the improvement in consumer incomes. In the case of truck crops for market, prices in 1936 advanced about 6 percent and marked the fourth successive year of increases from the low point reached in 1932; the 1936 prices were about 25 percent above the 1932 low point. Prices of truck crops for canning advanced about 8 percent in 1936 over 1935 and were about 28 percent higher than the depression low point.